

## V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Thoroughfare Planning is the planning of highway systems. It is also the initial stage of a road being constructed. Environmental factors have been a consideration in planning by North Carolina since 1959. The environmental factors are (1) physical environment; (2) social and cultural environment; and (3) economic environment. (See Table 6) . Environmental considerations in planning include (1) identifying critical environmental factors; (2) developing alternatives based on environmental factors; (3) evaluating alternatives relative to travel service and environmental factors; and (4) developing a recommended thoroughfare plan that best meets environmental, travel service and other public goals. Even before evaluating alternatives certain environmental data is gathered; for instance, wetlands inventory , historic landmarks, economic development, etc. Early research into environmental factors is general. However, recommendations given in a thoroughfare plan will more likely remain intact if environmental factors are researched. Early research highlights the area's need for further investigation on projects. Each category is discussed in more detail. Special Concerns Map-Figure 4 shows environmental factors which effect the Plan. Figure 11 shows the Thoroughfare Plan.

**TABLE 6-ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Physical Environment**

Air Quality  
Water Quality  
Wetlands  
Soils and Geology  
Wildlife and Vegetation

### **Social and Cultural Environment**

Housing and Neighborhoods  
Noise  
Educational Facilities  
Churches  
Historic Landmarks  
Parks and Recreational Facilities  
Public Health and Safety  
National Defense  
Aesthetics

### **Economic Environment**

Businesses  
Employment  
Economic Development  
Public Utilities  
Transportation Costs  
Capital Costs  
Operation and Maintenance Costs